

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 051030Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 366

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CF

SUBJ: US RELATIONS WITH CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR (FISCHER) IN BRAZZAVILLE, WHO ALSO REPRESENTS US INTERESTS THERE CALLED TOADY (DEC 4) ACCOMPANIED BY HIS KINSHASA COLLEAGUE.

2. HE BEGAN BY ASKING OUR THINKING CONCERNING RENEWING RELATIONS. I SAID I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT BUT MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT WE THOUGHT OF THE MATTER FROM TIME TO TIME AND THAT IF GOC WERE TO APPROACH US IN SERIOUS FASHION, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED PERSONALLY IF SOMETHING WERE EVENTUALLY TO COME OF IT. HE AGREED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING INITIATIVE LAY WITH BRAZZAVILLE AND SAID CONGO GOVT WAS STILL SPLIT ON ISSUE ALTHOUGH THERE IS INCREASING DISCUSSION OF MATTER THERE.

3. AMB FISCHER COMMENTED THAT OUR PROPERTIES WERE STILL IN REASONABLE SHAPE AND THAT HE HAS SOME 20 CUSTODIANS ON PAYROLL TO LOOK AFTER THEM. THE RESIDENCE, HE SAID, IS NOW INHABITED BY "A FISHMONGER." I WAS STRUCK BY FACT THAT WE APPARENTLY OWN FAR MORE PROPERTY IN BRAZZAVILLE THAN IN KINSHASA.

4. AMB FISCHER SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HELP BUT HE WAS CONCERNED OVER TWO ASPECTS OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. FIRST, HE HAD NO IDEA HOW

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MANY AMERICANS WERE IN THE CONGO AND, GIVEN THE UNSTABLE

POLITICAL SITUATION, THIS WORRIED HIM SHOULD HE NEED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE KNEW OF A HALF DOZEN BUT WONDERED IF WE HAD LISTS. I SAID WE HAD SCANT KNOWLEDGE HERE AND I DOUBTED IF DEPT KNEW BETTER BUT I WOULD INQUIRE. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. SECOND, HE SAID PASSPORT PROBLEMS FOR AMERICANS AND US VISA PROBLEMS FOR CONGOLESE WERE TROUBLESOME. HE CITED SEVERAL MIS-ADVENTURES IN THIS RESPECT WHICH HAD BEEN EMBARRASSING. QUESTION SEEMS SUBJECT TO REMIDIAL ACTION HERE AND BY USING RADIO-TELEPHONE CIRCUIT BETWEEN TWO GERMAN EMBASSIES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO BETTER IN FUTURE. NEVERTHELESS, DEPT SHOULD NOTE THAT CONSULAR SERVICE AND PROTECTION PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN AND THAT GERMANS WOULD NOT BE UNHAPPY WERE WE TO HANDLE THEM FROM OUR OWN OFFICE IN BRAZAVILLE.
HINTON

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